

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL WEST

## 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### 18 December 2022

Sunday cycle  
Readings Year A  
Weekday readings  
Year 1  
Divine Office  
Week 4



The "O Antiphons" of Advent

## TODAY'S MASS

How Jesus Christ came  
to be born

Fr Brian writes....

The Church has been singing the "**O**" **Antiphons** since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They use ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfilment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "**Come!**" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. The "O" Antiphons are the verses for the ancient hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. The first letter of the Messianic titles: *Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia*—spell out Latin words **ERO CRAS**, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." I encourage you to make them part of your personal prayer in this remaining week of Advent. One day He will come again in glory. **STAY AWAKE!**

#### December 17

**O Sapientia or O Wisdom** of our God Most High,  
guiding creation with power and love:  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

#### December 18

**O Adonai or O Lord and Ruler** of the House of Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

#### December 19

**O Radix Jesse or O Root of Jesse's stem**,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

#### December 20

**O Clavis David or O Key of David**  
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

#### December 21

**O Oriens or O Rising Dawn or Morning Star**  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

#### December 22

**O Rex Gentium or O King of the Nations**  
keystone of the Church:  
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

#### December 23

**O Emmanuel**  
our King and Giver of Law:  
come to save us, Lord our God!

# PARISH NEWS

**Welcome to the parish of Hemel West. If you are new to the parish, please make yourself known to Fr Brian, by contacting him on 01442 391 759.**

## MASS TIMES ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday. Therefore, the Sunday Vigil Mass will be at **5pm** and not the usual time of 6pm at Ss Mary & Joseph. This Mass will be celebrated by Fr Brian Reynolds. The earlier time will allow preparation for **Christmas Mass in the Night** which will be at **8pm** in Ss Mary & Joseph church, preceded by Carols at 7.30pm. Christmas Day is a Sunday, and so all Masses will be at their usual time and location. Fr Bernard Scholes will celebrate the 12pm Mass. If you have attended the 5pm or the 8pm Mass on the Saturday, this fulfils your obligation to be at Mass on Christmas Day.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Carols by Candlelight:** Please join us for Carols by Candlelight on Monday 19 December, 7.30pm in Ss Mary & Joseph's church. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Parish Centre.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** Raffle tickets will be on sale for the Christmas Hamper, this weekend. The draw will be on Monday 19 December, in the Parish Centre after the Carol Service.

**WEDNESDAY MASS:** Mass on Wednesday 21 and 28 December, will be at 10am at Ss Mary & Joseph. The Wednesday Mass on 4 January will revert back to St Mark's at 1.30pm.

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER DURING THE DAY:** Just a reminder that Ss Mary & Joseph church is open during the day until 5pm for personal prayer (not communal prayer) and has been for most of this year. The only exception is Thursday or closure for operational reasons. Do pop in and say a prayer. Invite your friends to join you and light a

votive candle for your deceased relatives and friends.

**SYNOD 2021 - 2024 "Enlarge the space of your tent" (Isaiah 54:2):** As part of the continuing Synod journey, the diocese has uploaded to their website two documents, which you may wish to read and comment on. You can find them at this link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/> The diocese asks individuals to consider the contents in relation to the following three questions:

1) "After having read and prayed with the DCS, which intuitions resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?"

2) "After having read and prayed with the DCS, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent's perspective? Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?"

3) "Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?"

Responses should be made to Deacon Adrian Cullen [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk) by 9 January. I would have liked to have held at least one parish meeting, but the timescale set by the diocese leaves little time and scope for proper discernment, listening, collating and feeding back of responses by the 9 January.

## HEMEL WEST FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

**PROGRAMME 2023:** Parents who are Registered for the programme and have Booked In for the sessions, are encouraged to check their email alerts from the Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel West, for the latest update on group allocations and confirmation of the session arrangements, which was sent on Saturday afternoon. Regrettably, it is not possible now to admit any further children onto the programme for 2023.

**CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE:** Any donations to the Christmas memory tree at St Mark's will go towards purchasing a new Advent wreath stand.

**MISSIO (Red Box):** Thank you to everyone for your support through prayers and donations during 2022. There are copies of the Mission Today 2023 calendar at the back of the church.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Please note that the parish office will be closed from Monday 19 December, until Monday 2 January, and will reopen on Tuesday 3 January.

**NEWSLETTER:** The next newsletter will be on the weekend of 7/8 January.

**YEAR BOOK:** The Westminster 2023 Year book is available to purchase from the parish office at the cost of £5.

**JUSTICE & PEACE:** Let us have the courage to believe in the bright future and in a God who wills it for us - not a perfect world, but a better one. Human hands and hearts can create this better world. "The Challenge of Peace, para 337"

#### **Prayer**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Amen

Please join us for tea/coffee, in St Joseph's Hall after the 10.15am Mass. All are welcome.

**E-ALERT:** Please sign up for the parish e-alerts and keep up with all the parish news.

#### **GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEEK:**

Mon.	Luke	1: 5 - 25
Tues.	Luke	1: 26 - 38
Wed.	Luke	1:39 - 45
Thurs.	Luke	1: 46 - 56
Fri.	Luke	1: 57 - 66
Sat.	Luke	1: 67-79
Sun	John	1: 1 - 18

#### **PARISH FINANCES**

**PLANNED GIVING:** Thank you to all those who have made the switch to donating by Standing Order. For those who wish to donate in this way, the details are:

Account Name: **WRCDT Hemel West**

Sort Code: **40-05-20**

Account No.: **31095048**

**The offertory collection Income figures are published on a monthly basis once the bank reconciliation is completed.**

#### **Office Hours and Telephone cover for Hemel West.**

Email: [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk)

Phone: 01442 391 759 option 2

Telephone cover for West	Hemel West Office Hours
Monday 12 noon-6pm	Monday 3pm-6pm
Tuesday 9.30am-3.30pm	Tuesday Closed
Wednesday 9.30am-3.30pm	Wednesday 9.30am-3.30pm
Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm	Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm
Friday 9.30am-3.30pm	Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

## HOLY MASS

<b>SUN 18 Dec</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	(SMSJ) 6pm (Sat vigil) (SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Martin Daniels (Recovery from Illness) Elizabeth Platt (RIP) Billy Barrett (RIP ANNIV) Pro Populo
<b>MON 19 Dec</b>	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	We Pray for the Young Generation
<b>TUE 20 Dec</b>	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	
<b>WED 21 Dec</b>	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Bridie Regan (Sick)
<b>THU 22 Dec</b>	Advent feria		No public Mass
<b>FRI 23 Dec</b>	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 10am	Holy Souls
<b>SAT 24 Dec</b>	Advent feria	(SMSJ) 5pm (SMSJ) 7.30pm	People of the Parish Carols followed by Mass in the Night at 8pm
<b>SUN 25 Dec</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	(SMSJ) 8.30am (SMSJ) 10.15am (SM) 12 noon	Peggy Hailes (RIP) Bernadette & Margaret Hardy (INT) Pro Populo

**MASS INTENTIONS:** If you would like a Mass offered for a deceased family member or a friend, or for any other intention, do let Shirley Bailey know by emailing her at [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) or you can call her on 01442 391 759. It is customary to make an offering and the diocese recommends £10 per Mass. If this is unaffordable for you, please feel free to make an offering you can afford.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** **Saturday:** 5pm-5.30pm at SS Mary & Joseph church and by appointment.

### MAKING CONTACT AT HEMEL WEST CATHOLIC PARISH


**Parish Priest:** Fr Brian McMahon      [brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:brianmcmahon@rcdow.org.uk) ( Opt 3)

**Parish Administrator:** Shirley Bailey      [shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk) ( Opt 2)

**Hall Bookings:** via Shirley or [hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hemelwesthallbookings@rcdow.org.uk) (In Office Hours)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 186 St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NR

**website:** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemelhempsteadwest/>

 **01442 391 759**

*Diocese of Westminster Charity N<sup>o</sup>: 233699*